

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT, JUNE 17-23.

1. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE JUNE 16 DELIVERY OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION AND THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PANAMA WERE NOT ITEMS OF MAJOR DISCUSSION LAST WEEK IN THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE SESSIONS OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES APART FROM THE U.S. AND PANAMA ADDRESSED THE PERTINENT AGENDA ITEM. ALL CONGRATULATED THE TWO PARTIES AND MOST POINTED TO THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED WITH THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION ON JUNE 22 ON THE TEXTS OF THE TWO RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED. THESE WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE AND DEBATED THERE, PROBABLY ON JUNE 26, PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF.

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2. EXIMBANK LETTER OF INTEREST. LOI RELATING TO THE EXIMBANK PORTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION PROGRAM OF THE SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 7, 1977 NOTE TO THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN TO THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY ON JUNE 19 BY EXIMBANK CHAIRMAN MOORE.

3. METCALFE COMMITTEE HEARINGS.

A. ON JUNE 21 THE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS ON SENATOR GRAVEL'S AMENDMENT PROPOSING A NEW SEA LEVEL CANAL STUDY COMMISSION TO UPDATE THE 1970 STUDIES. GRAVEL MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR AN EARLY STUDY TO PAVE THE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE CANAL AS A MEASURE TO EASE THE ENERGY CRISIS ON THE GULF AND EAST COASTS OF THE U.S. CHAIRMAN MURPHY ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE BILL. QUESTIONERS WERE SUPRISED TO LEARN THAT GRAVEL PROPOSES FINANCING THROUGH A PRIVATE CANAL COMPANY, ONE-THIRD OF WHOSE BONDS WOULD BE GUARANTEED BY THE USG. ARAB AND JAPANESE MONEY WOULD PROVIDE THE REST OF THE FUNDING. GRAVEL CLAIMS PANAMANIAN BACKING FOR HIS BILL.

B. ON JUNE 27 AMBASSADOR POPPER WILL TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT, SUPPORTING THE STUDY IN PRINCIPLE, BUT PROPOSING CHANGES TO BRING IT IN LINE WITH ART. XII OF THE TREATY. GENERAL DOLVIN WILL TESTIFY FOR DOD ON TECHNICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS. JUNE 28 SESSION WILL HEAR PRIVATE WITNESSES AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL. VANCE

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